GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3149
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
Grounding of Air India Pilots
Charitra Shri Ram

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India grounded many pilots who turned up drunk for flights in recent time;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether according to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), pilots failing the breathalyzer test is a common occurrence, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make stringent provisions against pilots who turned up drunk for flights; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) and (b): In the last three years and current year, total 30 pilots of air India were tested alcohol positive in pre-flight medical examination. The details are as under:-;

(i) 05 pilots tested alcohol positive for 1st time in 2014, 06 pilots in 2015, 12 pilots in 2016 and 02 pilots in 2017 (till June). ;

(ii) 03 Pilots tested alcohol positive for 2nd time in 2015, 02 pilots in 2016. However, none of the pilots was found alcohol positive for the 2nd time in the year 2014 and 2017 (till June).;
;
(c): No, Madam. The pilot failing the Breath analyzer test is not the common occurrence.;
;
(d) &(e): There is no need to amend the extant rules and regulations as adequate provisions already exists, the details of which are as under:;
;
- Rule 24 of Aircraft Rule 1937 prohibits the consumption of intoxicating and psychoactive substance by person acting as, or carried in aircraft for the purpose of acting as pilot, commander, navigator, engineer, cabin crew or the other operating member of the crew thereof.;
;
- Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR Section 5 Series F-Part-III) has been issued for the compliance of Rule 24 of Aircraft Rule 1937 and examine flight crew before violation of Rule 24. ;
;
In case a crew is detected Breath Analyser Positive in pre-flight medical, the privileges of license are suspended for a period of;

i) Three months in case of violation for the first time.;

ii) Three years in case of violation for the second time.;

iii) License of the crew member is cancelled in case of violation for the third time;

iv) any pilot holding privileges of an Instructor/ Examiner/ Check pilot/Cabin Crew In-Charge will lose such ratings/ authorization for a period of three years in addition to the above mentioned action.;

v) Expatriate pilot''s FATA (Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorization) is cancelled and never considered for issue of the FATA again.;
;
In case, a crew is detected Breath Analyser Positive in post-flight medical, the privileges of license are suspended for a period ;

i) In case of violation for the first time, license/authorization/ approval suspended for a period of one year. In case of an expatriate pilot, the FATA is cancelled.;
ii) Action on such cases is taken in accordance with the proviso of Schedule VI of the Aircrafrt Rules, 1937.;

iii) Any pilot holding privileges of an Instructor/ Examiner/ Check pilot/Cabin Crew In-Charge will lose such ratings/ authorization for a

period of three years in addition to the above mentioned action.;

iv) In case of a repeat violation of the provisions contained, the license/ approval of thecrew member is cancelled.